Data Scientist

Description

At LIRNEasia's Data, Algorithms, & Policy (DAP) team, we tackle societal challenges with the power of data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. One day, we're working on data-driven solutions to make emergency services more equitable and efficient or creating linguistic resources and LLM-based tools to help journalists and civil society defend rights and strengthen democracy. The next day, we're building machine learning datasets to tackle Sri Lanka's energy crisis sustainably, while leveraging call-detail records and satellite imagery to improve urban planning. By collaborating with academics, public sector leaders, and civil society organizations, we bring together rigorous multidisciplinary research and real-world problem-solving in Sri Lanka and across the Asia-Pacific.

About the Role

As a Data Scientist, you will find yourself working at the intersection of machine learning, public policy, economics, social science, and behavioral science. Your work will involve using data science techniques to design, build, deploy, and evaluate practical solutions for real-world challenges that matter.

This role will require you to:

1. Design and implement data-informed solutions and machine learning models to address challenging societal and public policy problems.
2. Build and maintain pipelines for collecting, cleaning, and analyzing large-scale datasets, including language, image and tabular data.
3. Deploy, evaluate, and monitor data-driven solutions to ensure they continue to align with the goals of the solution.
4. Collaborate with the internal team of researchers, project partners, funders, policymakers, and field experts to scope, design, develop, evaluate, and translate solutions into actionable policy and practice.
5. Communicate findings and solutions through presentations, reports, and journal publications to promote knowledge sharing and impact.

About You

You are a passionate data scientist who thrives on solving impactful, real-world challenges on a foundation of rigorous research. Curious and driven, you're eager to work on meaningful issues like good governance, climate adaptation, urban planning, or better healthcare. You enjoy collaborating across disciplines and cultures to turn ideas into impactful solutions.

Skills and Experience We Look for:

1. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree, preferably in a quantitative field or social science.
2. Proficiency in Python or R, for data analysis and machine learning with SQL experience being a plus.
3. Experience with machine learning libraries and frameworks such as PyTorch, or scikit-learn.
4. Strong communication skills, with the ability to explain technical and scientific concepts clearly to non-specialist audiences.

Skills and Experience That Will Set You Apart

1. Experience working with messy, real-world datasets in diverse, practical contexts.
2. Familiarity and experience with areas like geospatial analysis and remote sensing, natural language processing (NLP) and large language models (LLMs), or responsible AI principles such as fairness and explainability.
3. Domain knowledge in areas such as fact-checking and journalism, public health, or other policy areas mentioned above.
4. Strong communication skills, with a proven ability to translate academic research for diverse audiences.
5. A clear understanding of and strong interest in the work of LIRNEasia's Data, Algorithms & Policy (DAP) team.

If you're ready to bring your skills to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you. Write to us at hr@lirneasia.net on or before 10th January 2025.

Please note that LIRNEasia will only contact applicants that have been shortlisted for interviews.